



ALEXANDRIA, VIRGINIA.

FRIDAY, MARCH 2, 1876.

Never before in the history of any government of any country that claimed to be founded upon the virtue and intelligence of its people, have there been known such astounding disclosures of vice, corruption and fraud as have recently been brought to light concerning the present national administration.

The fame of Roman justice and virtue was clouded by the vices of Claudius and the pecculations of Verres; and the proud page of British history was tarnished by the dishonor of Bacon and the infamy of Jeffries, but neither case can offer a parallel to the systematized rascality that has lately disgraced the government, impaired the revenues and corrupted the integrity of the people of this country. Bounded by no limits, confined to no locality, the dreadful form of corruption stalks through every department of the government, from the Metropolis of the North to the Crescent City of the South; from the aboriginal frontier in the West up to the Capital itself—yes, even to the doors of the Chief Magistrate of the nation, the foot-prints of this hideous monster have left their indelible traces of official dishonesty, sweeping away in its march all sentiments of honor and manhood, of personal respect, of regard for public esteem and for the solemn obligations of the highest oaths of office; unfolding a page in the one hundredth year of the nation's history blurred and blotched by the flagrant cupidity of official culprits and the dishonesty of trusted public servants, and engendering disgust, loathing and contempt for the government under which such crimes can be thus openly committed, and which permits the criminals with impunity to escape responsibility to violated law and outraged justice.

With the shade of Babcock's soiled skirts still clouding the integrity of the executive, with the exposure and downfall of the Secretary of War, and with the Minister to the Court of St. James recrossing the ocean to explain nefarious transactions before the bar of public judgment, the day must be close at hand when the people will rise up in their might and shake off the incubus that is upon them; when the Augean stables shall be cleansed, and when the vultures who now are plucking out the vitals of an almost prostrate nation will become the prey of the avenging Nemesis of insulted justice.

The meanest thing about the whole Belknap affair was his attempt to save himself by sacrificing the reputation of his two wives, the dead one, and she who has been the leader of Washington society for the past few years—that society about which a certain Western democratic Congressman remarked not long since, when twitted publicly with his exclusion therefrom that he would not consider an *entree* into its charmed circle an honor, for that some of its choicest spirits were now in the penitentiary and that others were on their way there as fast as the courts could send them. It is almost impossible to realize that the man who was bold enough to "sustain" Sheridan in his outrage on the people of Louisiana, could be so craven-hearted as to endeavor to shield himself behind two women, and the lips of one of those sealed by death.

Telegrams from Washington to the St. Louis Times, state that during all the stages of the Babcock trial Judge Pierpont had drawn from District Attorney Dyer the plans of the prosecution and the evidence in its possession and communicated it to Mr. Storrs, of General Babcock's counsel; that this was done not once, but many times; and that in order that there might be no surprise, Colonel Dyer was called to Washington and induced to confide in the Attorney General all the secrets of the prosecution, which in turn became the property of General Babcock and Mr. Storrs.

Mr. Levi P. Luckey, formerly assistant private Secretary to the President, has been appointed to take charge of the Indian division of the office of the Secretary of the Interior.

The President has nominated Mr. Charles S. English to be Collector of Customs for the District of Columbia.

#### Ex-Gov. Letcher Paralyzed.

The whole State will be grieved to learn that ex-Gov. Letcher has been paralyzed, and will, in all probability, never again be able to take part in the affairs of the Commonwealth. The Richmond Journal of yesterday afternoon says: "The many friends of ex-Gov. Letcher will be pained to learn that he is lying in a very critical condition at his room in the Exchange Hotel. Governor Letcher complained last night of feeling unwell. This morning while crossing the bridge, extending from the Ballard House to the Exchange, he was stricken with paralysis. He was taken to his room. Dr. Smith, of Amherst, a member of the House of Delegates, and Dr. Hunter McGuire at once prescribed remedies. Dr. Smith is of the opinion that the attack was caused by an effusion of blood on the brain. His condition is critical, as all such cases are. A few days will determine the extent or severity of the attack. His physicians will hold a consultation this afternoon at 5 o'clock. In conversation with Gov. Letcher would never be seen on the floor of the House again."

#### The Disgraceful Administration.

The following is the report of the Committee on Expenditures in the War Department presented in the U. S. House of Representatives yesterday, as stated in the Gazette of that date. It was read by Mr. Clymer, the Chairman, in the midst of great excitement and with an unusual stillness in the House:

The committee found at the very threshold of its investigation such unquestioned evidence of the malfeasance of Gen. William W. Belknap, then Secretary of War, that they found it their duty to lay the same before the House. They further reported that this day, at eleven o'clock, a letter of the President of the United States was presented to the committee, accepting the resignation of the Secretary of War, together with a copy of his letter of resignation, which (the President informed the committee) was accepted about 10:20 this morning.

They then unanimously reported and demanded that William W. Belknap, late Secretary of War, be dealt with according to the law of the land, and, to that end, submit herewith the testimony in the case taken together with the several statements and exhibits thereto attached, and also a transcript of the proceedings of this committee had during the investigation of this subject, and submit the following resolutions of impeachment:

**Resolved** That Wm. W. Belknap, late Secretary of War, be impeached of high crimes and misdemeanors in office.

**Resolved** That the testimony in the case of Wm. W. Belknap, late Secretary of War, be referred to the Judiciary Committee, with instructions to prepare and report, with an unnecessary delay, suitable articles of impeachment of said Wm. W. Belknap, late Secretary of War.

**Resolved** That a committee of five members of the House be appointed and instructed to proceed immediately to the bar of the Senate and there impeach Wm. W. Belknap, late Secretary of War, in the name of the people of the United States, of high crimes and misdemeanors, which in office, and to inform that body that formal articles of impeachment will, in due time, be presented, and to request the Senate to take such order in the premises as they may deem appropriate.

Mr. Clymer, after submitting the unanimous report of the committee, read the following testimony and a copy of the same:

**Tuesday Feb. 29, 1876.**—The committee met at 10:30 a. m., present Messrs. Clymer, Blackburn and Robbins. Mr. Caleb P. Marsh, one of the witnesses ordered to be subpoenaed by the committee, being present, was duly sworn according to law.

**Question by the Chairman.**—Where do you reside?

**Answer.**—I reside at No. 30 West Fifty-seventh street, New York. Have resided in New York about eight years.

**Question by the Chairman.**—Were you or not appointed or tendered an appointment as a post trader at Fort Sill, Indian Territory, in the fall of 1870 by the Secretary of War; if so, under what circumstances was said appointment secured to you; state also if you were commissioned by the Secretary as such post trader, or if not, who was so commissioned, and if any other person than yourself was so commissioned give his name, the reason why he was so commissioned; if any agreement was made between you and the appointing state, or produce it if in writing, and was such agreement made with the knowledge of the Secretary of War, and state the circumstances connected with the making of that agreement, and all the transactions in detail thereunder fully and particularly as if you were specially interrogated in regard to the several transactions, and so fully as to save the necessity of repeated interrogations?

**In reply to your question** I would state that in the summer of 1870 myself and wife spent some weeks at Lone Branch, and on our return to New York Mrs. Belknap and Mr. Bower, by our invitation, came for a visit to our house. Mrs. Belknap was ill during this visit some three or four weeks, and I supposed, in consequence of our kindness to her, she felt under some obligation, for she asked me, in course of a conversation, why I did not apply for a post tradership on the frontier. I asked what they were, and was told that they were many of them very lucrative offices or posts in the gift of the Secretary of War, and that if I wanted one she would ask the Secretary for one for me. Upon my replying that I thought such offices belonged to disabled soldiers, and besides that I was without political influence, she answered that neither soldiers nor places, she answered that she remembered saying that if I had a valuable post of that kind that I would remember her, but I do remember her saying something like this: "If I can prevail upon the Secretary of War to award you a post you must be careful to say nothing to him about presents, for a man once offered him \$10,000 for a tradership of this kind, and he told him that if he did not leave the office he would kick him down stairs." Remembering as I do this story, I presume the antecedent statement to be correct. Mrs. Belknap and Mr. Bower returned to Washington, and a few weeks thereafter Mrs. Belknap sent me word to come over. I did so. She then told me the post tradership at Fort Sill was vacant; that it was a valuable post she understood, and that she had either asked for it for me, or had prevailed upon the Secretary of War to give it to me; at all events I called upon the Secretary of War, and as near as I can remember, made application for this post in a regular printed form. The Secretary said he would appoint me if I could bring proper commendatory letters, and this I said I could do. Either Mrs. Belknap or the Secretary told me that the present trader at the post, John S. Evans, was an applicant for reappointment, and that I had better see him, he being in the city, as it would not be fair to turn him out of office without some notice, as he would lose largely on his buildings, merchandise, &c., if the office was taken from him, and that it would be proper and just for me to make some arrangements with him for the purchase, if I wished to run the post myself.

I saw Evans, and found him alarmed at the prospect of losing the place. I remember that he said that a firm of Western post traders claimed a good deal of influence with the Secretary of War had promised to have him appointed, but he found on coming to Washington this firm to be entirely without influence. Mr. Evans first proposed a partnership, which I declined, and then a bonus of a certain percentage of the profits if I would allow him to hold the position and continue the business. We finally agreed upon fifteen thousand dollars per year. Mr. Evans and myself went to New York together, where the contract was made and executed, which is herewith submitted. During our trip over, however, Mr. Evans saw something in the Army and Navy Journal which led him to believe that some of the troops were to be removed from the post and he had offered too large a sum, and before the contract was drawn it was reduced by agreement to twelve thousand dollars, the same being payable quarterly in advance.

Upon the first remittance coming to me, say probably in November, 1870, I sent half thereof to Mrs. Belknap, either, I presume, by certificate of deposit or bank notes by express. Being in Washington at a funeral some weeks after this I had a conversation with Mrs. Bower to the following purport, as far as I can remember, but must say that just here my memory is exceedingly indistinct, and I judge in part, perhaps, from what followed as to the details of the conversation. I was up stairs in the nursery with Mrs. Bower to see the baby.

I said to her this child will have money coming to it before a great while. She said, "Yes, the mother gave the child to me and told me that the money coming from you, I must take and keep for it." I said "all right," and it seems to me I said that perhaps the father ought to be consulted. I say it seems so, and yet I can give no reason for it, for, as far as I know, the father knew nothing of any more transactions between the mother and myself. I have a faint recollection of a remark of Mrs. Bower that if I sent money to the father, that it belonged to her, and that she would get it any way. I certainly had some understanding then or subsequently with her or him, for when the next payment came due and was paid I sent the one half thereof to the Secretary of War, and have continued substantially from that day forward to the present time to do the same.

About I should say one and a half to two years after the commencement of these payments I reduced the amount to six thousand dollars per annum. The reason of this reduction was partly because of the combined complaints of the part of Mr. Evans and his partner, and partly so far as I now remember to consequence of an article in the newspapers about that time reflecting on the justice of the traders at this post, and by exhibiting charges made necessary on the part of the trader to the necessity of the payment of this bonus. To the best of my knowledge and belief the above is a true statement of all the facts in the case, and as complete as I can remember occurrences of so many years ago.

**Question by chairman.**—State how the payments were made to the Secretary of War subsequent to the funeral of his wife, which you attended in Washington in December, 1870, whether in cash, by check, draft, certificate of deposit, bonds, or by express or otherwise?

**Answer.** The money was sent according to the instructions of the Secretary of War, some times in bank notes by Adams Express. I think on one or more occasions by certificate of deposits on the National Bank of America in New York. Sometimes I have paid to him in New York in person, except the first payment in the fall of 1870, and the last in December in 1872, all to be made to the Secretary in the name of the wife of the Secretary, upon one or two occasions at his instance I bought a government bond with the money, in hand arising from the contract with Evans, which I either sent or handed to him.

**Question by Mr. Blackburn.**—Can you state the sum in aggregate received by you under the contract with Evans, and what portion thereof have you paid to the Secretary of War, including the first and last payments which you have stated were paid to him?

**Answer.**—I have no memorandum whatever on which to make answer. It is a very simple matter. The first payment to me by Mr. Evans was made in the fall of 1870, at the rate of \$12,000 a year. He paid at that rate about a year and a half or two years, and since then at the rate of \$6,000 a year. I would aggregate about forty thousand dollars, the one-half of which I have disposed of as above stated.

**Question by the Chairman.**—Did you receive letters from the Secretary of War acknowledging the receipt of the sums forwarded to him in the manner you have stated, or did he acknowledge the receipts of the same in any way?

**Answer.**—Usually when I sent money by express I would send him the receipt of the company, which he would either return marked "O. K." or otherwise acknowledge the receipt of same. Sometimes I paid it to him in person in New York, when no receipt was necessary. I have not preserved any receipts or letters. When sent by express I always deposited the money personally and took a receipt from the man.

**Question by the Chairman.**—Have you at any time had any conversations with the Secretary of War regarding the post tradership at Fort Sill or have you corresponded with him regarding the same?

**Answer.**—Oh, frequently. I have forwarded requests to the Secretary made to me by Evans, wishing privileges about the fort, such as to sell liquor, &c. I don't remember what action was taken upon them. They were not returned to me. As far as I know Evans corresponded regarding a gambling affair at Fort Sill through me with the Secretary of War. I never heard of any other way.

**Question by Chairman.**—Was the contract between you and Evans ever the subject of conversation between you and the Secretary of War?

**Answer.**—It never was as I remember, save in one instance, but am not positive, yet it seems to me it was when the article in the newspapers regarding affairs at Fort Sill, made in 1872, about the time a reduction was made in payments from \$12,000 to \$6,000, appeared. The next time I saw the Secretary of War he asked me if I had a contract with Evans. I told him I had. I never showed it to him or any one else till I produced it here.

**Question by the Chairman.**—After receiving the telegraphic subpoena from the Sergeant-at-Arms to appear before the committee, which you came on Monday, the 21st of this month, did you come to Washington, and if so had you an interview with the Secretary of War, and when and where?

**Answer.**—I came to Washington on Wednesday night, the 23rd of this month; went to the house of the Secretary of War; stayed Wednesday night, and returned Thursday morning. I showed him the telegraphic subpoena, and asked him what it meant. He said he supposed it was to state before the committee what I knew about our transactions together. I said I did not like to appear, because I thought my testimony would be damaging to or would implicate him or give him trouble. He said he thought not, and advised me to stay and meet the committee.

**During that evening** my conversation was chiefly with his wife, he being present part of the time and understanding the general tenor of our conversation. She suggested that I could make a statement which would satisfy the committee and exculpate the Secretary. She wanted me to go before the committee and represent that she and I had business transactions together for many years, and that all this money I had sent the Secretary was money that she had from time to time deposited with me as a kind of bank, and that she had instructed me to send it to the Secretary for her. I denied there and spent the evening and staid all night, retiring about 12 o'clock.

The evening was devoted to discussing this matter. I told her that the statement would not hold water before the committee, and even if it would I could not make it. At the same time I was wrought up and had such an anxiety, she pressing me about it, and having slept little since the receipt of the subpoena, and a sympathy with her condition, I did not get to bed at twelve o'clock, and I do not suppose I slept a wink. They said they would breakfast about 9 o'clock. I came down about 8 and met the Secretary alone. I told him I thought I had better leave and get out of the country, for I would not perjure myself for any one; that I could afford to have my throat cut, but not to perjure myself. He did not wish me to do that; said he could fix it up some other way; I said I think I had better leave the country.

The Secretary said I would ruin him if I left. I said, "If I go before the committee I will surely ruin you, for I will tell the truth." He was greatly excited. When I came down stairs to leave he followed me, and asked me into the parlor, and said, "I want to talk a little with you to stay longer." He said if I went he would be ruined. I said I would ruin him if I went before the committee, and I left and took the limited express for New York. On reaching home I consulted my attorney, asking him if the committee could reach me by

subpoena if I left the country. I stated the case to him, Mr. Bartlett, 120 Broadway, Equitable building.

He asked me if I was subpoenaed. I told him I had a telegraphic dispatch calling me to Washington. He said that if a subpoena had been duly served they could give me considerable trouble, but on a telegraphic message they could not reach me if I was out of the country. I asked him how long I would have to stay. He said if the committee had leave to sit during the recess I could not come back until the present Congress expired. I then went home and found there a dispatch from Doctor William Tomlinson, the brother in law of the Secretary. Its purport was not to leave, that he had good news; that he was coming over. I determined not to be governed by it; that I was going; that they only wished to fix up some story, but that I would not be tricked. At my trunk was being packed to leave. At midnight of Thursday, February 24, Dr. Tomlinson arrived at my house; said he had seen Joe Blackburn; he was a cousin of mine, who said he thought you (March) would write a letter something like that there would be no further investigation, and if there was they would ask no questions; that it would be difficult for me to answer, and that Mr. Blackburn said he thought that if the committee still wanted to examine me they would appoint a sub-committee and come over to New York to do so.

He came to my bed room and I told him to go into the sitting room and draw the sketch of the proposed letter, and that when I drew I would join him, and I would write such a letter as he wanted, if I could. I wrote the letter from the sketch of Tomlinson. The endeavor was to exculpate the Secretary. There was nothing in it untrue to the best of my recollection, but it did not state the whole truth. It was a very short letter. He took it with the contract enclosed. He said he would take the letter and contract to Mr. Blackburn, and would show it to the committee, and that would be the end of it. He left my house at 11 o'clock Friday morning, and had the subpoena of the committee served on me. Sunday morning about eight o'clock Dr. Tomlinson again appeared. He said he had been to Washington. He wanted to know the first thing if I had been subpoenaed. I told him I had. He began talking the whole thing over again, and I wanted him to say before the committee what was suggested at the Secretary's. At the interview on Thursday night he wanted me to telegraph to the committee before whom I had been subpoenaed by telegraph to appear the next morning, (Friday), that my wife was sick and that I could not attend. My wife being sick I consented and did so telegraphically. Recurring to the interview again on Saturday I said I could not make the statement he desired. He said he had seen Mr. Blackburn in the interval, and had shown him the letter of Thursday night. He then returned to me and the contract to me. I said: "Dr. Tomlinson, I have thought of this thing so much it has nearly made me crazy. I am not going to talk about it any more; we will go down to my lawyer and consult him about it." My object being to have a lawyer to tell him how ridiculous the story he wanted me to tell would appear before the committee. We went down and called on Mr. Bartlett and told him the whole truth in the presence of Dr. Tomlinson. Mr. Bartlett said I could not make that statement, and I insisted that if I could swear that Gen. Belknap knew nothing of the arrangement with his sister, Mr. Belknap deceased, and if I could swear that at the time I was a full trader I made an arrangement with Mrs. Bower, the present Mrs. Belknap, by which I was to send her all this money through the Secretary, that the whole thing could still be settled. I replied, "I cannot state it for it is not true." My impression then being that at that funeral I had said something about the matter to Gen. Belknap, Tomlinson said that if you cannot swear to that you had better leave the country. Mr. Bartlett said this was a bad business; it is not a legal question you have summed to me, and in the position of affairs the Secretary of War should decide if you should go to Washington or leave the country.

Dr. Tomlinson said he would return to Washington. He prepared two formal letters of telegrams which I would understand; one was: "I hope your wife is well," and was to be interpreted to leave the country. The other was: "I hope your wife is better," which meant come to Washington. We then parted. On going home in the street cars, thinking the whole thing over about the conversation at the time of the funeral, I made up my mind that at that time I had said to Mr. Bartlett that I thought I had had some conversation at the time of the funeral with the Secretary of War about sending this money, yet I was so undecided about it that I was certainly willing to give the Secretary the benefit of the doubt. I thought I would see Tomlinson and tell him.

We parted at one o'clock. He was to leave for Washington at three o'clock. I went to the depot and met him and told him that on thinking over the matter I was so undecided about the conversation with the Secretary at the time of the funeral that I would give him the benefit of the doubt. He said I am very glad to hear this, because my sister, Mrs. Belknap, said this was the fact. That Saturday evening I got a telegraphic dispatch from Mrs. Belknap, which said: "Come to Washington; it is necessary."

Next morning (last Sunday) I received a dispatch from Tomlinson, "I hope your wife is better," which according to our agreement, meant "come to Washington."

In the afternoon I got a second dispatch from Dr. Tomlinson as follows: "Come without fail; answer." I answered, "I shall come to-night without fail." I was very glad not to have to leave the country, the conviction having grown on my mind that it would do no good.

I reached Washington yesterday morning at 6:30 and stopped at the Arlington, my wife being with me. Was shown to a temporary room. About 7 o'clock I had down, being deftly attended, and about 8 o'clock Dr. Tomlinson called me to the door of the room. He said he had seen Blackburn, and that he still thought this matter could be fixed up without any trouble. He asked me if I had the letter I had written to the committee on Thursday night. I said I had not. He said Blackburn says you had better write another of the same purport and send it up to the committee, and a note explaining why it did not come sooner.

I did so. Shortly after two p. m., yesterday, I came to the capital to meet the committee. I found Dr. Tomlinson in the corner near the committee room door. He said, "You are going before the committee, and I want you to remember that there was no arrangement with you and the Secretary at the time of the funeral, and that the money you have always paid to Gen. Belknap was for Mrs. Belknap and by her directions." I told him I was going before the committee to tell the whole story as far as I could recollect it. I said I had thought of leaving the country, but was overruled, and that now I shall tell the truth and the whole truth, and nothing but the truth. He said, "I don't want you to tell any lies. I only want you to tell the truth, and that is the truth." I said, "The truth I shall certainly tell, and if it does not hurt Gen. Belknap no one will be more rejoiced than myself."

I entered the committee room at about two o'clock yesterday, and without being sworn I made a statement to certain members of the committee of the facts in the case, more briefly, but substantially as I have now ascertained in reply to your chief interrogations. When I returned to the hotel yesterday afternoon Dr. Tomlinson was waiting at my room at the Arlington to see me. He asked how I got along before the committee. I told him I had told the story from beginning to end, and that at

the request of the gentlemen present I was going to reduce it to writing and appear before the committee to day at 10:30 with it. He wanted to know how I had stated the fact that all these payments to the Secretary had been made in consequence of the original agreement made with Mrs. Belknap. I said I had stated the facts as they were according to my best recollection and belief. I told him I would furnish him a copy of the statement I would make before the committee. I prepared the statement last night and gave him a copy about eight o'clock this morning, being substantially a copy of that I submitted as an answer to your chief interrogatory, save that I have filled up the blanks. Dr. Tomlinson came back to my room at about 7:30 last evening, and asked me to go with him to see Mr. Blackburn since I had made my statement in the afternoon, and what impression it had made upon the gentleman who heard it. He said he did not like to say he had seen Mr. Blackburn, but he said he had seen one of the committee, who expressed the opinion that my statement would involve the Secretary.

He then made a stronger appeal to me than ever before, saying that I was the friend of the Secretary; that if this thing came out it would ruin him; that his wife was in great distress about it, and he himself, as her brother and a friend of the family, was in great trouble, and that if I could state— I said, "Stop, Dr. Tomlinson, I have about finished my written statement, and I will read it to you." I then read it to him. He said he did not see that it was all right; that things could be explained up if they could prove that this money was originally sent to G. B. Belknap by Mrs. Belknap's order. G. B. Belknap would be supposed to and would prove to the committee that Mrs. Belknap's state was entirely sane from his, and that this money never reached him, but he always kept distinct from his son for her.

**Question by the chairman.**—Did you ever have any business relations of any kind or nature whatever with the late Mrs. Belknap or the present Mrs. Belknap, or either of them other than those arising from the Fort Sill tradership?

**Answer.**—I never. The present Mrs. Belknap, years ago, may have consulted me on business matters, but there were no monetary transactions whatever between us, other than I have heretofore stated.

**Question by the Chairman.**—When was the last time the late Mrs. Belknap born, and when did she die?

**Answer.**—The baby of the late Mrs. Belknap was born in the autumn of 1870, and died during the summer of 1871.

**Question by Mr. Robbins.**—In the conversation had with the present Mrs. Belknap at the funeral of her sister, in December, 1870, or any other conversation had with her or any other person at any time was it the understanding that the money you were to pay and was paying was to be the money of Mrs. Belknap, the present wife of the Secretary of War?

**Answer.**—I was not. The foregoing deposition and statement made under oath, having been carefully read over in full to Mr. Caleb P. Marsh, the witness, in the presence of the committee, and he having made such alterations and corrections therein as he deemed just, he assents to it as a correct record of his testimony, and attests the same by his signature hereto attached.

CALEB P. MARSH.

At the close of the reading and after the many members who had taken up positions near the clerk's desk (the better to hear the testimony and accompanying statements) had returned to their proper seats, Clymer, who had also come to his seat, again rose and said, with great emotion:

"Mr. Speaker—I would not if I could, and I could not (in my present condition) if I would, add anything to the facts just reported to the House. Another occasion may be afforded me to do so. They are so plain that every where throughout this broad land and throughout Christendom, wherever the English language is read or spoken, they will, for long years, constitute a record of official corruption and crime such as there is no parallel for in our own history or in that of any other country that I know of. In this hour, one sentiment of pity, one word of sympathy could but utterance from me; it would be because I feel that the late Secretary of War is but the proper outgrowth, the true exponent, of the corruption, the extravagance, the misgovernment, that has cursed this land for years past. That being my own reflection I will discharge my duty best to myself and to this House by denouncing the previous question on the adoption of the resolution."

Mr. Hoar, of Massachusetts, having protested against the proposed impeachment, Mr. Blackburn, of Kentucky, another member of the committee, expressed his satisfaction that the report which had been read by his colleague, Mr. Clymer, showed that the world had nothing had been left undone by the committee to shield and shelter from dishonor every person except the one whom it was the duty of the committee to investigate and report upon. He would not consent that the gentleman from Massachusetts should make this a political or partisan question. He would assent that his side of the House should be placed in the position of prosecutors and the other side should take up the position of defendants. It was a question which addressed itself alike to every member of the House. He regarded the case as an unprecedented one in more respects than one. The action of the President in accepting Secretary Belknap's resignation under the circumstances was unprecedented, and this was the first instance in the history of the country where any man claiming manhood and holding an exalted station had sought to shelter himself from legitimate investigation by interposing the dishonor of a wife. [Sensation.]

Passing to the question of the impeachment of Mr. Belknap, he suggested that that question as Judge Story had intimated must properly be left to the decision of the Senate. On such a state of facts would the House, he asked, shrink from the performance of its duty because there might be the mist or shadow of a doubt on that point? The House could not do so. I would not be a slave. He quoted from the impeachment case of Lord Bacon, in which it was stated that when the Lord Chancellor had sought to save himself by a resignation of his high office the attempt was vain, as the King did not and could not interpose. Was the House to be told that the man in power at the other end of the avenue was able to rob an American Congress of a right and power which the King of Great Britain could not take from Parliament? [Sensation and applause.] It used to be the theory that the King could do no wrong, but no man had ever been found bold enough in this country to say that the President could do no wrong. If the man who had uttered the memorable sentence, "Let no guilty man escape!" held it in his power to rob an American Congress of its right to inflict punishment or to pronounce sentence on a publicly convicted criminal, where was the barrier to be found beneath whose shelter the liberties of the people could be secure? [Applause.]

The debate being closed, the House proceeded to vote on the resolutions, and they were unanimously adopted, and the Speaker appointed as the committee of five to go to the bar of the Senate and notify that body of the proposed action of the House, Messrs. Clymer, Robbins, of N. C., Blackburn, Bass and Danforth, the same gentlemen who composed the committee which made the investigation.

During the proceedings Mr. Kerr occupied the Speaker's chair, and beneath him at the Clerk's desk sat his predecessor, Mr. Blair, evincing a painful interest in the story as told in the testimony of March. Many members whose seats are in a remote part of the hall took up positions in the area in front of the Clerk's desk, and all the rest occupied their seats, paying the most marked attention to the reading. Before the scene had closed the galleries had all become crowded, including the Diplomatic gallery, where the Danish Minister and his wife were among the spectators. There was a feeling of relief experienced by all when the vote was taken and the affair brought to a close. The committee appointed by the Speaker will to day proceed to the Senate chamber and communicate to that body the action of the House. The Judiciary Committee have also drawn up the articles of impeachment and reported them to the House. When adopted by the House that body will, head-by its Speaker and high officers, proceed to the Senate chamber and demand the impeachment of Mr. Belknap. Then the Senate will (in parliamentary phrase) "take order" for the impeachment, that is arrange the time and manner of conducting the trial which will be presided on the part of the House by its Judiciary Committee.

**SECRETARY BELKNAP'S RESIGNATION AND ITS ACCEPTANCE.**

WASHINGTON, D. C., March 2, 1876. Mr. President—I hereby tender my resignation as Secretary of War, and request its immediate acceptance—thanking you for your constant and kind attentions. I am respectfully and truly yours.

(Signed) William W. Belknap—A true copy—F. D. GRANT.

EXECUTIVE MANSION.

WASHINGTON, D. C., March 2, 1876. Dear Sir—Your tender of resignation as Secretary of War, with the request to have it accepted immediately, is received, and the same is hereby accepted with great regret. Yours &c., U. S. GRANT.

Gen. Belknap was not possessed of about \$500,000 salary, and has probably expended double or three times that amount in every year that he has been in Washington. He is a man in the prime of life, just 47 years of age, and of showy physique, and his own wife is said to be perhaps as much to do with his downfall as the weakness of his wife. When the present Mrs. Belknap was married she could not trust to American dressmakers for her trousseau, but sent over to Worth for it, and the description of her elaborate dresses and other finery gave the Jenkins correspondents something to dilate upon for weeks. She has enjoyed it, it can be called a joyous and successful circumstance, the distance of one of being the best dressed woman in Washington. Her carriage and appurtenances were also the envy and admiration of the socialites who hung around her in the brief day of her prosperity.

It is also rumored that Orville Grant was caught in this at a bad time soon he exposed, that at least five other prominent officials of the War Department will be discovered to have been engaged in improper transactions, and that is proposed to show that Postmaster General Jewell has placed himself in an awkward position, and that his resignation in disgrace must follow.

After the President had accepted General Belknap's resignation he appointed Mr. Robinson, the Secretary of the Navy, to the vacancy, so that that officer is now at the head of both the army and navy of the United States.

The action of the President in accepting Belknap's resignation, and that, too, "with regret," shows, says the Baltimore Gazette, that he is so much to do with his downfall as the weakness of his wife. When the present Mrs. Belknap was married she could not trust to American dressmakers for her trousseau, but sent over to Worth for it, and the description of her elaborate dresses and other finery gave the Jenkins correspondents something to dilate upon for weeks. She has enjoyed it, it can be called a joyous and successful circumstance, the distance of one of being the best dressed woman in Washington. Her carriage and appurtenances were also the envy and admiration of the socialites who hung around her in the brief day of her prosperity.

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